Skill development mission

3333. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether skill development is taking place in a very diffused manner as quality of skill development institutes is very poor and out ITIs, polytechnics are not imparting world class skills;

(b) whether it is a fact that schemes for higher/technical education in the country are suffering due to non-utilization of funds and other valuable resources available in the country;

(c) the funds allocated to State Governments/NGOs during last three years, indicating details of funds spent/unutilized, till date; and

(d) the measures Government has taken to ensure that 100 per cent funds are utilized in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Government is consistently taking steps to maintain quality skill development institutes and to bridge the skill deficit through agglomeration of programmes and institutes.

(b) Ministry of Human Resource Development has formulated a framework for the implementation of vocational education and training during Eleventh Plan period. During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 143.30 crore has been provided for setting up of new polytechnics and vocationalization of secondary education. Steps are being taken for the optimal utilization of the allocated funds.

(c) There are a number of schemes for skill development and higher/technical education being undertaken by State Governments/NGOs. Funds under the schemes are released as per the guidelines for each scheme and releases are made depending upon the level of utilization.

(d) Each scheme has its own monitoring and evaluation mechanism and the Government is consistently making efforts to ensure effective utilization of funds by strengthening, delivery, consultative and monitoring mechanism.

Demonstration against Planning Commission

3334. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a women's organisation had demonstrated on 4th March, 2008 against Planning Commission;

(b) whether the Commission received any memorandum from the organisation; and

(c) if so, the steps that are being taken to meet the issues raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issue of differences between the official estimates of poverty and estimates being made by the States is currently under consideration by an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Professor Suresh Tendulkar, Chairman of the National Statistical Commission.

Current definition of poverty

3335. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently definition of poverty is based on a fifteen year old definition proposed by the Lakdawala Committee way back in 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government has a plan to set a fresh criteria to measure poverty for the Eleventh Plan; and

(c) if so, the details and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The definition of poverty currently used by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendations made by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor in 1993. The Expert Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. D.T. Lakdawala.

(b) The Planning Commission has used the criteria outlined in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor to measure poverty in the Eleventh Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds allocated to States

†3336. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government and particularly Government of NCT, Delhi have been allocated funds for maintenance of slums, execution of works related to provision for basic facilities to the citizens of urban areas alongwith developmental works including for other schemes during past and current Five Year Plans; and

(b) the amount allocated to States by Centre so far alongwith their dates and names of schemes during past and current Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main schemes for providing basic facilities to slums in urban areas during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans were 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)' and 'National Slum Development Programme (NSDP)'.

'VAMBAY' was launched in 2001, as Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and Rs. 1093.93 crore, including Rs. 57.62 crore for NCT Delhi, were allocated during 2001-02 to 2005-06.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.